

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MAY 8, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12.30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas.

There was no objection.

CALENDAR WEDNESDAY

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
ON DEATH OF JOHN CARDINAL
O'CONNOR, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW
YORK

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 317) expressing the sense of the Congress on the death of John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 317

Whereas His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor was born John Joseph O'Connor on January 15, 1920, in southwest Philadelphia, the son of Thomas and Mary O'Connor;

Whereas his duty to God and country led him to serve loyally as a chaplain in the United States Navy, counseling thousands of brave young men and women during his tenure, which included tours of duty during the Vietnam War;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor served the people of the Archdiocese of New York with honor and distinction for over 15 years;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor became an internationally recognized leader in the field of human rights, working for peace and justice;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor was a champion of Catholic schools, particularly in inner-city communities;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor has always spoken out and acted to aid the elderly, homeless, working people, the mentally disabled, and the poor;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor has provided compassion through his words and actions and made it known that everyone was a child of God and was deserving of love, compassion, and respect;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor led the Catholic Church in recognizing the terrible toll of AIDS and opened New York State's first AIDS-only unit, at St. Claire's Hospital;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor worked tirelessly to strengthen relations between Catholics and followers of the Jewish faith, recognizing the power of the interfaith alliance and leading the Vatican to recognize the State of Israel; and

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor was guided in his actions by the Spirit of the Lord: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor on May 3, 2000, and extends condolences to his family and to the Archdiocese of New York;

(2) expresses its profound gratitude to John Cardinal O'Connor and his family for the service that he rendered to his country and his faith; and

(3) recognizes with appreciation and respect John Cardinal O'Connor's commitment to and example of faith, love, respect, and dignity for all mankind.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the time be divided, 30 minutes on each side, with the 30 minutes on the other side being controlled by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the words of the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), and also to express our appreciation to him and the Speaker as well in allowing Members to pay our respects to the great Cardinal O'Connor, who we bury on Monday in New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day for New Yorkers and the Nation. America has lost a good priest and a great leader, John Cardinal O'Connor. Normally, resolutions such as this are tinged with regret. For often, when someone passes away, we worry that we may have missed the opportunity for not having said something to one that we loved or respected; for not expressing something that we felt. But I am pleased that this is not the case today. I am pleased because this House expressed the gratitude of the Nation for the work of John Cardinal O'Connor while he was still alive.

Just a few weeks ago, the House voted to recognize Cardinal O'Connor with a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award that this Nation bestows upon a civilian. And sadly, while he will never have the opportunity to see or to hold that medal, I know that he was deeply touched by being recognized by Congress. Just to have his name placed up for the Congressional Gold Medal was an honor to him, and I

would like to thank each and every Member of this House for voting to award Cardinal O'Connor that great honor.

He considered his work that of a simple priest. We here today know that his modesty cannot obscure his greatness. John Cardinal O'Connor touched the hearts and lives of millions of people. He was a man of deep compassion, great intellect, and tireless devotion. His words transcended religion, and his actions reminded us that American heroes still exist. The cardinal was a guiding light for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. He was and is truly loved, truly admired; and he will truly be missed.

Cardinal O'Connor served this Nation for 27 years in his military career. He had a tour of duty in Korea, where he volunteered to become a chaplain; two tours of duty in Vietnam, often giving mass and celebrating mass in a foxhole, and giving the last rites to so many young men who gave their lives for their country. He was there in the heat of battle. And when he came back, I think above all he had the fondest memories of being a chaplain in the United States military. I am sure there are people around the country who remember Cardinal O'Connor as that chaplain, and I am sure they share the grief that we all have today.

In his responsibilities as Archbishop of New York, as a great spiritual leader, perhaps one of the most influential in this country, he was truly committed to those who needed help the most, the poor and the homeless. And when it came to education, he was steadfast in his commitment to ensure that Catholics and non-Catholics alike have the greatest opportunity to receive a quality education.

But for the strength, the guidance, and the principal positions that he often took, and that sometimes were referred to as controversial, his commitment to the church, his commitment to his people, his commitment to parishioners was a force that could never be forgotten. So his legacy will live on in many ways, and I thank the House for giving us this opportunity to honor his life and his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank my colleague and my good friend, the gentleman from Staten Island, New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), for joining me in offering this resolution today and for his outstanding work in recognizing the life of our friend, Cardinal O'Connor.

I would also like to thank the other original cosponsors on this side of the aisle: the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the gentleman from New